

THAT AWAY BOGEY BEATS WANDERERS

By ARGUS

Leytonstone 3, Wycombe Wanderers 1

COLLECTING away points for Wycombe Wanderers is just about as easy as buying an elephant in Frogmoor. Wycombe have now lost six out of eight Isthmian away games. The latest defeat, at Leytonstone on Saturday, was not entirely unexpected, for "Stones" — third in the league chart — are always a Wycombe "bogey" side, especially in London.

A hefty, powerful team better equipped than Wycombe to chug through the chocolate-coloured blanc-mange of a pitch, Leytonstone never looked back from a 20-seconds quick opening goal, although they were forced on to the defensive for long periods of the second half.

But Wycombe—who defended more stubbornly and attacked more persistently as the game went on, were ghosts of the attacking force which crushed Dulwich Hamlet seven days earlier.

The mud put invisible ball and chains on all the players but Wycombe's forwards were particularly handicapped against a towering defence. And even when the way to goal was clear there stood Derek Griffin as confident and impressive a goalkeeping enemy as ever.

IN THE GRIP

As Sheldon Bressington was completely in the grip of pivot Frank Newman and Paul Bates was as moderate as he was majestic against Hamlet, Wycombe were short of sting.

Although Len Worley had a better match—one great first half shot by him might have changed the course of the game had it not crashed against the Leytonstone crossbar—he faded in the second half.

Once John Beck switched flanks to cross swords with his old left-wing adversary Ron

Cudmore, Wycombe's defence looked much more solid. The volume of speedy Leytonstone raids, which gave goalkeeper Ken Brown an anxious time in the hectic first half, gradually toned down after the break as Wycombe kept the ball swinging across the "Stones" penalty area.

But Leytonstone were clearly on top in the first half. Straight from the kick off inside-left Cyril Tiffin hooked Cudmore's centre back to Ted Greenhill and the centre forward rammed the ball into the net.

The Wanderers found the going tough on the clinging pitch and although Worley did come within half-an-inch or so of equalising it was Leytonstone who went further ahead, in the 25th minute, when Brown misjudged full-back Johnny Allen's free-kick from outside the penalty area and Tiffin ran in to head a simple goal.

OWN GOAL HELPS

Tiffin shot against a Wycombe goalpost as Brown was temporarily besieged and with hopes dropping to zero Bressington's shot, flying wide, was headed past his own goalkeeper by Leytonstone captain Ray Wood.

Wood nearly made handsome amends in the second half when he thudded a mighty drive against the Wycombe crossbar. Breathing again, the Wanderers took the initiative and Griffin became the busiest man on the field. He twice punched clear from Bressington's head, collected a neat first time drive from Steve Hyde and stood helplessly as Michael Rockell's header just cleared the bar.

But Wycombe lacked the shooting zip to beat this clever goalkeeper. A third goal by Greenhill, who collected a through pass which eluded Crook, killed Wycombe's chances of gaining a point.

WYCOMBE RALLY

Leytonstone 3 Wycombe W 1

TWO-GOAL centre forward Albert Greenhill shot Leytonstone into the lead after just 20 seconds at the High Road ground. And when the home side went further ahead after 25 minutes it looked as though the shoddy Wycombe defence was going to offer only a token resistance to Greenhill and his colleagues.

But Wycombe avoided the massacre in the mud with a powerful second-half revival that staggered the Isthmian League championship contenders.

If the forwards had been able to snap up the chances they carved so simply Wycombe might have captured one of the points.

As it was the visitors rarely looked like forcing the ball past cool, capable goalkeeper Derek Griffiths.

Greenhill—the best forward on show—scored before any Wycombe player had touched the ball after inside-left Tiffin had cut back a centre from Ron Cudmore.

A precision-placed free kick from right-back Johnny Allen allowed Tiffin to nod a second for Leytonstone but Wycombe came back into the game when Allen diverted a Sheldon Bressington shot into his own goal before the interval.

Master-tactician Greenhill knocked the fight out of Wycombe with a superb solo effort 16 minutes from the end.